

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6494

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: BPRO KS

SUBJ: KOREAN ELECTRONICS REQUIREMENT FOR TELEPHONE SWITCHING

REF: STATE 187565

1. COMATT CALLED SEPT 24 ON BYUNG-KWON CHAI, VICE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND KYOUSUK CHUNG, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU, TO DISCUSS NORTH ELECTRIC INTEREST IN JOINT VENTURE IN TELEPHONE SWITCHING.

2. VICE-MINISTER CHAI EXPLAINED THAT KOREAN REQUIREMENTS FOR TTELEPHONE SWITCHING EQUIPMENT ARE NOW MET BY ORIENTAL PRECISION AND GOLD STAR. ORIENTAL PRECISION HAS BEEN MAKING STROGER SWITCHING EQUIPMENT SINCE 1961 WHILE GOLD STAR (WITH SIEMENS) HAS BEEN TURNING OUT EMD SWITCHING EQUIPMENT SINCE 1965.

3. SEVERAL YEARS AGO SAMSUNG APPLIED FOR ROKG APPROVAL TO MAKE CROSS-BAR SWITCHING EQUIPMENT. VICE MINISTER CHAI STATED THAT SAMSUNG APPLICATION WAS TURNED DOWN ON GROJDS THAT THERE WERE ALREADY TWO MANUFACTURERS AND COUNTRY COULD NOT AFFORD ANOTHER MAKER AND ANOTHER TYPE OF TELEPHONE SWITCHING EQUIPMENT. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS POLICY WAS TO STANDARDIZE EQUIPMENT, AND INDEED SEVEN TELEPHONE RECEIVER MODELS HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO ONE LOCALLY PRODUCED TYPE CALLED MOC STANDARD.

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4. VICE MINISTER CHAI CONCLUDED THAT MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS WAS NOT INTERESTED IN NORTH ELECTRIC PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED THAT FUTURE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE BETTER MET THROUGH INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC SWITCHING.

5. WE SOUGHT TO MAKE APPOINTMENT FOR NORTH ELECTRIC, BUT VICE MINISTER CHAI STATED THAT SITUATION WAS RATHER OBVIOUS BUT IF JOHN A. MC DAVI, NORTH ELECTRIC VICE PRESIDENT, WAS STILL INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THIS OR ANY RELATED SUBJECT:, DIRECTOR GENERAL CHUNG WOULD RECEIVE HIM. CHUNG SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND KNOWS HIS SUBJECT AND MAY BE BETTER CONTACT.

6. FYI. GTE AND ITT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SEEN US RECENTLY AND THEY HAVE NOT MENTIONED TO US DIFFICULTIES REPORTED PARA 5 REFTTEL.

7. WE WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD TO MC DAVI'S VISIT AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST HIM FURTHER WHEN HE ARRIVES.
HABIB

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